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an outbreak of a so-called "sleeping sickness" in the neighborhood of Tübingen in Germany in the year 1712; and what appears to be a similar malady more widely distributed in Austria, Italy, and Switzerland in 1890. The first appearance of the present epidemic and the location of the 1890 outbreak coincide territorially. It is not possible to state absolutely that the disease originated this time in Vienna; under war conditions its occurrence in outlying rural districts might well have been overlooked. But there is nevertheless basis for the view proposed tentatively, namely, that an endemic focus of a peculiar and specific form of encephalitis exists in Southeastern Europe, from which the present wide occurrence of the disease took origin.

THE WIRELESS TELEPHONE

THE practical value of research in the field of pure science was vividly demonstrated in a lecture on "Scientific Discovery and the Wireless Telephone," presented at the American Museum of Natural History by Dr. Robert W. King, engineer of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company. Dr. King illustrated his lecture by demonstrations and models both of discoveries leading up to the wireless telephone and of the wireless telephone itself as employed during the war for airplane communication. The exhibit of models and apparatus installed in connection with the lecture will remain at the museum during May and June. It was arranged by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company and the Western Electric Company in cooperation with the American Museum of Natural History and the New York Academy of Sciences. The lecture and exhibit are the first of a series included in the peace-time program launched by the National Research Council. They have already been presented at Washington, where they aroused marked interest.

Dr. King's lecture traced the history of radio telephony as a development of scientific theories which, at the time of their discovery, seemed wholly removed from the every-day life of the world, but which a little later were to revolutionize that life. With the work of Hertz in the last half of the nineteenth century the broad general principles underlying the new science of radio communication were completely established. It has remained for scientific men of our own generation to devise the means for controlling the production of the electromagnetic waves in such a manner as to make possible the sending of intelligible messages over long distances and for the receiving of such messages. In this connection there are countless devices, all of the utmost practical value, yet almost without exception adaptations of discoveries in the field of pure science.

Comparing the working of the wireless telegraph with that of the wireless telephone, it will be seen that to send dots and dashes out through space all that is necessary is to interrupt the formation of the electric waves at the proper times, while in transmitting actual speech not only must the amplitude of the electric waves be varied continuously rather than abruptly, but the electric waves must be so modulated as to transmit the particular sound waves sent out by the voice. Such an oscillatory electric current upon its arrival at the receiving station, is caused to pass through a telephone receiver which accordingly emits the words of the voice in the same fashion as in the common telephone. In this way a reproduction of human speech can be carried without wires over an ocean or a continent. This remarkable fact was actually demonstrated in September, 1915, when the Engineering Organization of the Bell Telephone System, after years of silent preparation successfully sent a wireless telephone communication from Washington, D. C., eastward to Paris and westward to Honolulu, the latter being a distance of 4,900 miles. On the same occasion, speech was transmitted over a standard telephone circuit from New York to Washington, where it was automatically amplified and relayed to the radio apparatus and thence projected through space across the continent to San Francisco.

It is in such a combination with the wireless telegraph that the greatest usefulness of the wireless telephone will probably be found to lie. Through the happy union of the two new arts of communication, spoken messages can be sent from airplanes, ships, moving trains and points on land or water where the installation of wires or cables is impracticable, to a convenient receiving station, whence they can be relayed by wireless telegraphy to more distant points. Doubtless, also, if satisfactory methods are found for eliminating atmospheric disturbances and preserving secrecy, the wireless telephone will to some extent be used for the handling of trans-oceanic messages.

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS IN ENGLISH FOR THE NATIONS OF CONTINENTAL EUROPE

Two movements have been initiated, one in the United States and one in England, for the supply of books and journals to European countries. In this country an appeal is signed by Felix Adler, James R. Angell, Franz Boas, Charles W. Eliot, J. Cardinal Gibbons, Arthur T. Hadley, David Starr Jordan, Harry Pratt Judson, E. H. Lewinski-Corwin, A. Lawrence Lowell, John Bassett Moore, Henry Fairfield Osborn, George Foster Peabody, M. I. Pupin, Jacob Gould Schurman, Ellery Sedgwick, F. J. V. Skiff, Munroe Smith, Antonio Stella, Henry Suzzallo, Harlan F. Stone, William H. Taft and F. A. Vanderlip.

They say:

> Owing to the depreciated currency of Europe and the financial difficulties in which many European nations find themselves, the publication of some European serials has been temporarily discontinued, others have decreased in size, while the publication of still others is irregular. Furthermore, the purchase of American books at the present rate of exchange is practically impossible.
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> Since it is essential for the intellectual life of mankind, that students of all countries should be in close touch, and since it seems of importance to America that the results of our intellectual activities should be known, the undersigned urge all publishers, publishing institutions and publishing societies to exchange their publications on the most liberal terms with libraries, publishers, journals and publishing institutions and societies of all European countries, disregarding for the near future the question whether the amount of printed matter received in exchange corresponds with the amount sent.

From England it is proposed to establish in Central Europe under British-American auspices libraries of recent English books indispensable to university teachers. The work is being organized on a broad, non-political, non-sectarian basis, so as to enlist the widest possible cooperation. These libraries will supply on loan books needed by the faculties of the different universities in Central Europe. They will be under the charge of British and American representatives, and committees of the foreign universities will be asked to superintend the local administration. A committee of the six most im-